

CLAIMS

1. A battery discharge protection system, comprising:
- a) a microprocessor being capable of receiving a plurality of inputs, said inputs corresponding to signals from a vehicle;
- b) a plurality of electronic switches being configured for movement between an open position and a closed position, said closed position connecting an electrical load to said battery, said open position disconnecting said electrical load from said battery; and
- c) a gate input circuit for manipulating said switches between said open and closed positions in response to an output received from an accelerometer.
2. A battery protection system for a battery, comprising:
- a) a switching mechanism positioned intermediate to the positive terminal of a battery and an electrical load;
- b) a controller for manipulating said switching mechanism between an open position and a closed position, said closed position connecting said electrical load to said battery and said open position disconnecting said electrical load from said battery; and
- c) a battery state detection system, said battery state-of-charge protection system instructs said controller to open said switching mechanism when said battery state corresponds to a vehicle crash.

3. A battery protection system as in claim 2, further comprising:

- 5 d) a vehicle status detection system, said vehicle status detection system instructs said controller to open said switching mechanism when a vehicle crash condition is detected by said vehicle status detection system.

4. A battery protection system as in claim 2, further comprising:

- d) a manual override switch for disconnecting said battery from said electrical load.

5. A battery protection system as in claim 2, further comprising:

- 5 d) a vehicle status detection system, said vehicle status detection system instructs said controller to close said switching mechanism when a battery re-connect condition is detected by said vehicle status detection system.

6. A device for disconnecting a battery from an electrical load, comprising:

- an electronic switch interposed between a battery output terminal and any battery electrical load;
- 5 a means for determining whether a vehicle in which said battery is installed is in a collision; and

10010136-120601

a means for causing said electronic switch to transition from a closed-circuit condition to an open-circuit condition.

7. A method for disconnecting a vehicle battery when said vehicle is involved in a collision, comprising:

sensing a collision by a sensing device, said sensing device providing a signal to a control device;

5 commanding a control device to disconnect said battery from any electrical load.

8. The method as in claim 7, wherein said control device is a switching mechanism positioned intermediate to the positive terminal of a battery and any electrical load, said switching mechanism being operated by a controller for manipulating said switching mechanism between an open position
5 and a closed position, said closed position connecting said electrical load to said battery and said open position disconnecting said electrical load from said battery.